

Minutes of the Tuesday, June 2, 2009 CTEC Meeting

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 8:00 pm on Tuesday, June 2, 2009 at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members K. Abbott, R. Barrett, L. Caprioglio, S. Carroll, P. Collington, F. Esposito, S. Hoag, O. Raadam, D. Stillinger, W. O'Connor Twp. Liaison. Also, Joe Santoro, Michael Rosseli, Glen Kashuba and Antonio DiMieri, Madison residents and neighbors of Chatham Day School and Stephanie DePalma of the Alternative Press.

CTEC'S PURPOSE: to undertake projects and make recommendations concerning the protection or use of natural resources, including water resources, located within or directly affecting Chatham Township.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT -- The meeting schedule for 2009 was posted on the main bulletin board at the Township municipal building, mentioned on the Township web site, and published in the newspapers Chatham Courier and Daily Record. The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings and participate in projects.

Minutes

R. Barrett motioned to approve the minutes from May 5, 2009, P. Collington 2nd with all in favor.

REMAINING MEETING DATES FOR 2009 AND JANUARY 2010

Every first Tuesday: July - no meeting, Aug 4, Sept 1, Oct 6, Nov 3, Dec 1 in 2009, and Jan 5, 2010.

AWARDS

- NJ Clean Communities Award presented to CTEC on May 22, 2008 by the NJ Clean Communities Council for the Commission's Riverside Cleanup project. S. Hoag.
- ANJEC Environmental Awards for 2008 to CTEC: Environmental Achievement Award for Township energy and emission inventory performed by S. Carroll and K. Abbott. Environmental Achievement Commendation for Back2Tap program to limit use of plastic water bottles, directed by P. Collington and K. Abbott.

GRANTS

- The Chatham Jaycees have awarded \$750 to CTEC to replace 6 crabapple trees on the grounds of the Lafayette School. The grant was facilitated by K. Abbott in cooperation with principal Cheryl Caggiano, and Erv Hoag, Mary Olmstead, and Sharon Gill. The award ceremony will be held June 10 at Charlie Brown's from 7 to 9 qPM. All are encouraged to attend. D. Stillinger thanked K. Abbott for all work involved in this project.
- The ESRI Corporation has awarded CTEC a free copy of ArcView for 2009. ArcView is the mapping software used to create the Township GIS website and CTEC's conservation easement map.

EVENTS

- Chatham Jaycee grant award ceremony June 10 at 7 PM at Charlie Brown's.

REPORTS/DISCUSSION

- K. Abbott reported that a paper recycling bin has been installed at Colony pool.
- Michael Rosseli and Joseph Santoro, neighbors of Chatham Day School spoke regarding their concerns with Chatham Day School's proposed application to the BOA for constructing new buildings, tree removal, and increase in parking area. They would like a 150 foot conservation zone on the north side with no pool, parking lot or other activity in that area. CTEC is requesting a conservation easement on the northern 4 acres, is opposed to any fill being spread in the wooded areas and would like the expansion of the proposed retention basins. Each will present their views to the Zoning BOA independently.
- EC web site - F. Esposito will continue to work toward goal of updating web page. W. O'Connor reported that the township is in the process of updating its web site.
- Open Space Committee report. S. Hoag reported bike path from Spring Street to Southern Boulevard along with the sidearm to Southern Boulevard School is now open. Additional township owned properties and other available properties are also being investigated for Open Space use.
- Energy subcommittee report. The Chatham Township Environmental Commission was established as the Green Team at the May 28, 2009 meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Chatham by passage of Resolution 2009-124.
- Planning Board report. L. Caprioglio reported that there was no meeting since last CTEC meeting.
- Township Committee report. W. O'Connor reported no progress on Shunpike Field. The Committee was presented with possible sidewalk projects. A DOT state grant will be applied for to fund sidewalks from Noe Road-Shunpike intersection to Cougar Field. The township 911 memorial has been chosen for an award. The township is still seeking volunteers to assist in the broadcasting of Township Committee meetings.

- Community Education and Outreach Committee report. Green Fair with the Borough is planned for September 12. P. Collington thanked those who volunteered to help that day. Motion to approve "Who We Are" flyer by D. Stillinger was 2nd by O. Raadam with all in favor. Flyer will be posted on web site. Possibility of phone number and e-mail address for CTEC and an auto response to submitters to acknowledge receipt of the comments and requests will be pursued. Press release on Sustainable Jersey and formation of Green Team will be issued. K. Abbott reported that items gathered at the Morristown Mothers & Tots' Infant/Child car recycling seat event are not recycled but are reused. It is felt that this poses a safety issue since car seats have expiration dates and could have damages and defects. K. Abbott will attend the NJ sustainability conference, "Stoking the Sustainability Fire" on Friday and Saturday, June 5th and 6th.

APPLICATION/LOI REVIEW

- NEW. BRILL/THE FARM AT GREEN VILLAGE. 503 Green Village Road. 5-14-09. Block 48.18, Lots 140, 142, 143. Application to the Board of Adjustment for demolition and removal of an existing dilapidated shed and lean-to and replacement with a new barn, renovation and expansion of the farmhouse with a second story rear addition, construction of a new outdoor restroom facility. The business is entitled to continue and expand as a nonconforming use protected under the Right to Farm Act. Stream may need wider buffers, stormwater concerns, possibility of fertilizer going into stream and pond. Property drains directly into the Great Swamp. Waivers requested for EIS (would include information on quality of current surface water), 2 to 5-foot contours to determine the natural drainage of the land, soil types and height of water table, drainage calculations for drainage facilities. Additional information required.
- PENDING. CHATHAM DAY SCHOOL. 700 Shunpike Road. 10-31-08. Block 135, Lots 1 & 9. Application to Board of Adjustment for preliminary and final site plan approval, two conditional use variances, hardship c(1) variance for steep slopes disturbance, to demolish 3 buildings and build two new buildings with associated expanded parking areas. Dispute over 2004 Planning Board conditional use approval - claim is that Planning Board did not have jurisdiction. CTEC suggests Board of Adjustment require a conservation easement on the northern 4 acres of woods to help limit intensification of use. S. Hoag, F. Esposito, D. Stillinger.

OTHER REPORTS & DISCUSSION

- S. Hoag reported that the township will now recycle print cartridges and reusable batteries. There will be recycle boxes for these items at the Municipal Building and at the Tanglewood recycling area.
- Motion to approve the letter to NJ legislators urging approval of bills A3901/S1858 which would put an item on the ballot in November to let voters decide whether to renew the Garden State Preservation Trust was made by S. Hoag, 2nd by F. Esposito, all in favor.
- K. Abbott will write an article on her tour of the Morris County MUA recycling facility.
- Next Electronics Recycling event - Saturday October 3, 2009.
- NRI - update. Possibly a sustainability section, which would be in support of Sustainable Jersey. The NRI is on the EC page on the Township web site. Discussion about an EC project to update the NRI. It would require about 6 hours of each Commissioner's time to review and comment on a section and write a report with recommendations and added or changed information for inclusion.
- Four-year plan. A good idea. Can every subcommittee come up with a draft plan? Review Community Education and Outreach Committee four-year plan.
- Conservation easement project. Discuss process for future notification of new owners. In Mendham Township the tax office notifies the Environmental Commission when a property with a conservation easement changes ownership. Discuss plan for future monitoring of conservation easements: suggest every 5 years if no problems, every 3 years if problems, 1 year after a new owner. Standardize a conservation easement agreement form. Recommend Township adopt an ordinance requiring applicants to grant a conservation easement to the Township on all wetlands and transition areas with a NJDEP conservation easement. L. Caprioglio, S. Hoag, D. Stillinger.

RECENT LETTERS SENT

- May 2009. Thank you letters sent to volunteers at the Electronics Recycling Event on May 2 including DPW Head Joe Barilla and his staff member Greg (P. Collington). Letter concerning the Chatham Day School application sent to the Board of Adjustment.
- April 2009. Letter to NJDEP concerning Shunpike Field. Thank you letters sent to all who attended the Riverside Cleanup and wrote their names on the sign-in sheet.
- March 2009. New property owner with a conservation easement - letter sent to 47 Ormont Road, letter to NJDEP re flood hazard area verification for 446 Green Village Road, letter to applicant at 446 Green Village Road.
- January 2009. Remaining 13 letters were sent to property owners with conservation easements who were visited by John Linson in October thanking them for being good stewards and noting Mr. Linson's findings.

MAIL RECEIVED (not including applications and notices mentioned above)

- Minutes of Long Hill EC and Chatham Borough EC, various newsletters, event announcements, and flyers.

CTEC MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:50 PM.
Marge Gerba, Acting Minutes Secretary